

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application in view of the foregoing amendment and following remarks.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1 and 3-10 are pending in this application, and stand rejected. By this amendment, new claims 11 and 12 are added. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

Applicant notes that portions of claim 1 in the Applicant's Amendment submitted on May 11, 2007 were not underlined inadvertently. In particular, the phrase --said inspection data generating unit adds first data and second data to the image data, the first data indicating -- and -- and the second data indicating a location of the image data -- in lines 6-8 of claim 1 should actually be underlined since these portions were added in the May 11, 2007 Amendment. It appears that claim 1 as amended has been considered and entered by the Examiner in view of the statements in the Final Office Action issued on July 24, 2007. For example, the Examiner refers to the above added portions of claim 1 in page 3 of the July 24, 2007 Final Office Action.

Amendment to the Abstract

The Abstract has been replaced with new abstract as shown above.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§102 and 103

Claims 1, 3-5, 9 and 10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0060736 to Wakao et al. ("Wakao"). Claims 6-8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Wakao, further in view of EP 1211587 A1 to Lanthaler ("Lanthaler").

In the October 12, 2007 Advisory Action, the Examiner indicates, *inter alia*, that:

However, per Figs. 5A and 5B and paragraphs 51, 54 and 57, more than one method can be used to generate the primary verification data. Further, per paragraph 43, lines 10-18, the program implementing, among other things, the selected method used by each specific image generation device [Fig. 12, ref. 10] for generating verification data is stored in the program memory [Fig. 1, ref. 17] of the device and the specific ID is used to identify device. Consequently the specific ID also identifies the selected method. (Page 2 of the Advisory Action)

As Applicant explained in the previously filed response on September 24, 2007, the “specific ID” of image generation device in Wakao, only identifying the shared information (Kc) and secret information (Ks), does not identify the hash function used to generate the primary verification data. In other words, the shared information Kc and the secret information Ks of Wakao do not identify the method of generating the primary verification data. Rather, the shared and secret information are components of the generation method. For example, Wakao discloses that the method for generating the primary verification data is a hash function. [Wakao, Figures 5A, 5B; Wakao ¶¶0051-0059 (describing the method for generating the primary verification data as a hash function, of which shared information Kc and secret information Ks are parts)]. Further, in Wakao, the hash function used in the image verification system is constant, and only the secret and shared information change depending on the image generation unit used to generate the image data. Moreover, merely knowing the shared and secret information to be used in a hash function is not sufficient to gain knowledge of the hash function used.

As a result, Wakao does not teach, disclose or suggest the inspection data generating unit of claim 1 which “generates inspection data necessary to inspect whether the image data is modified or not, wherein said inspection data generating unit adds first data and second data to the image data, the first data indicating a generation method of the inspection data and the second data indicating a location of the image data” as recited in Applicant’s claim 1.

Lanthaler, cited as disclosing the “second inspection data” of claims 6-8, can not remedy Wakao because it fails to show or suggest the above described features of claim 1, e.g., an inspection data generating unit adds the first data indicating a generation method of the inspection data.

Accordingly, claim 1, and each of claims 3-10 in depending from claim 1 either directly or indirectly, is believed neither anticipated by nor rendered obvious in view of the cited references (i.e., Wakao and Lanthaler), either taken alone or in combination, for at least the reasons discussed above.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 3-10 under 35 U.S.C. §§102(a) and 103(a) is respectfully requested.

Applicant has chosen in the interest of expediting prosecution of this patent application to distinguish the cited documents from the pending claims as set forth above. However, these statements should not be regarded in any way as admissions that the cited documents are, in fact, prior art.

New claims 11 and 12 have been added to recite the claimed invention in an alternative manner. Specifically, claim 11 depends from claim 3 which again depends from claim 1, and claim 12 depends from claim 11. Each of claims 11 and 12 is accordingly believed allowable for at least similar reasons for claim 1 discussed above. Support for the added claims may be found throughout the original specification including, e.g., page 18, lines 18-26.

Applicant believes that the application including new claims is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

AUTHORIZATION

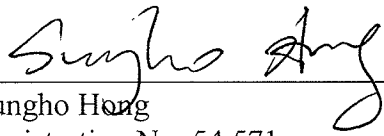
No petitions or additional fees are believed due for this amendment and/or any accompanying submissions. However, to the extent that any additional fees and/or petition is required, including a petition for extension of time, Applicant hereby petitions the Commissioner to grant such petition, and hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge any additional fees, including any fees which may be required for such petition, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500 (Order No. 1232-5162). A DUPLICATE COPY OF THIS SHEET IS ENCLOSED.

An early and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: October 24, 2007

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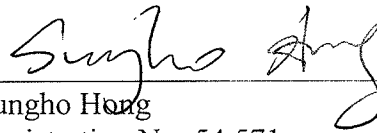
AUTHORIZATION

No petitions or additional fees are believed due for this amendment and/or any accompanying submissions. However, to the extent that any additional fees and/or petition is required, including a petition for extension of time, Applicant hereby petitions the Commissioner to grant such petition, and hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge any additional fees, including any fees which may be required for such petition, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500 (Order No. 1232-5162). A DUPLICATE COPY OF THIS SHEET IS ENCLOSED.

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